

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJ: REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

REF: (A) MADRID 6528; (B) MADRID 6537

1. BERNARDO D'OREY PINHEIRO, PORTUGUESE BUSINESSMAN WITH CONTACTS IN EXILE CIRCLES, TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 17 THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WAS DEFINITELY COMPLETE FABRICATION AND THAT PRESUMED "CABINET MEMBERS" APPEARING IN COMMUNIQUE HAD NO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT. HE ATTRIBUTED MANEUVER TO PCE (SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY). LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMMUNIQUE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN GIVEN TO SEVERAL MADRID PAPERS BUT THAT ONLY "NUEVO DIARIO" HAD FALLEN FOR IT. "NUEVO DIARIO", HE EXPLAINED, IS GULLIBLE RIGHT-WING PAPER WITH INEXPERIENCED MANAGEMENT BUT IT HAS ACTIVE MARXISTS AMONG ITS EDITORIAL STAFF WHO SKIPPED STORY IN.

2. REPORT OF REACTION IN LISBON FILED BY CORRESPONDENT OF "YA" AND BARCELONA'S "VANGUARDIA" STRESS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE NOT BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN LISBON. REPORT QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED HIGH GOP FIGURE AS STATING THAT
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ANNOUNCEMENT "AS A JOKE IS NOT BAD AND AS A PROVOCATION IS

A LITTLE INGENUOUS." REPORT ADDS THAT PRESENCE IN "CABINET" OF FORMER P.I.D.E. FIGURES ROSA CASACO AND BARBIERI CARDOSO, WHO WANTED IN PORTUGAL, PROVE THAT AUTHORS OF SPURIOUS COMMUNIQUE WANTED TO PRESENT NAMES THAT WOULD "SHOCK" BECAUSE OF THEIR PROVEN UNPOPULARITY IN ALL PORTUGUESE SECTORS. LISBON CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT CONFIRMS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXILE GOVERNMENT GIVEN TO ALL MADRID MEDIA, NOTING THAT ONLY "NUEVO DIARIO" AND FRANCE PRESSE USED IT.

3. COMMENTING ON THIS "PORTUGUESE FANTASMA", "YA" POLITICAL COMMENTATOR LUIS APOSTUA STATED "NOTHING WOULD BE MORE OPPOSED TO INTERESTS OF SPAIN AND ITS IMAGE ABROAD THAN TO TOLERATE ANTI-PORTUGUESE ACTIVITIES BY THOSE WHO YESTERDAY RAN THE COUNTRY AND TODAY ARE IN EXILE." "SPAIN", APOSTUA CONCLUDED, "HAS ITS FILL OF PHANTOM GOVERNMENTS WITH CASE OF SECOND SPANISH REPUBLIC LOCATED IN MEXICO."

4. COMMENT: IT SPURIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS WORK OF COMMUNISTS, IT HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE. CARICATURE OF PORTUGUESE RIGHT HAS MADE EXILES LOOK A LITTLE RIDICULOUS. SPANISH PRESS AND GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN GIVEN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC WARNING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD DEVELOP. AND SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN STIMULATED TO TAKE FIRM PUBLIC POSITION IN SUPPORT OF NON-INVOLVEMENT AND AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY EXILES.
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